Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 24, 26, 27, 29, 38, and 39 as follows:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 23. **(Cancelled)**

24. **(Currently amended)** A method of diagnosing colon cancer comprising:

a) determining the level of a nucleic acid comprising a sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:167, or a full complement thereof, in a patient sample comprising colon tissue; and

b) comparing the level of the nucleic acid in (a) to a level of the nucleic acid in a second sample, said second sample comprising non-cancerous colon tissue;

wherein a decrease of at least 50% in a level of expression of the nucleic acid ~~between~~ in the patient sample ~~and~~ relative to the second sample indicates that the patient has colon cancer.

25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleic acid ~~comprises~~ has the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:167.

27. **(Currently amended)** A method of diagnosing colon cancer comprising:

(a) determining the level of a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:167, or a full complement thereof, in a patient sample comprising colon tissue; and

(b) comparing the level of the nucleic acid in (a) to a level of the nucleic acid in a second sample, said second sample comprising non-cancerous colon tissue;

wherein a decrease in a level of expression of the nucleic acid of at least 50% ~~between~~ in the patient sample ~~and~~ relative to the second sample indicates that the patient has colon cancer.

28. **(Cancelled)**

29. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 24 or claim 27 wherein the ~~difference between~~ decrease in the level of the nucleic acid in (a) ~~and~~ relative to the level of the nucleic acid in the second sample is at least 100%.

30-36 **(Cancelled)**

37. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleotide sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:167 encodes a polypeptide having the same activity as EGR1.

38. **(Currently amended)** A method of diagnosing colon cancer comprising:

a) determining the level of a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO:167, or the complete complement thereof, in a patient colon sample; wherein hybridization is performed at 60°C in a solution with a sodium ion concentration from about 0.01 to 1.0M, pH 7.0 to 8.3 comprising formamide; and

b) comparing said level of nucleotide sequence in (a) to a level of the nucleotide sequence in a second sample, said second sample comprising a negative control comprising non-cancerous tissue;

wherein a decrease of at least 50% ~~between~~ in the level of the nucleotide sequence in (a) ~~and~~ relative to the level of the nucleotide sequence in the second sample indicates that the patient has colon cancer.

39. **(Currently amended)** A method of diagnosing colon cancer comprising:

(a) determining the level of a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes the polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:167 in a patient sample comprising colon tissue; and

(b) comparing the level of the nucleic acid in (a) to a level of the nucleic acid in a second sample, said second sample comprising non-cancerous colon tissue;

wherein a decrease in a level of expression of the nucleic acid of at least 50% ~~between~~ in the patient sample ~~and~~ relative to the second sample indicates that the patient has colon cancer.